



RUNGE CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

HABITAT HAPPENINGS

September and October 2003

Trees



Just like many people who record memorable events or keep diaries of their lives, nature has its own historians. One of nature's amazing diary keepers is the tree. A tree can grow from a seed weighing only fractions of an ounce, to a giant structure that can reach hundreds of feet tall, weigh tons, and live to be centuries old. Truly, trees are "tremendous." If you look at the cross section of a felled tree or a freshly cut stump, you will notice a distinct pattern of rings. As a tree grows, each "annual ring" represents a year's worth of growth. You can tell how old a tree was by counting the rings. A tree's annual rings are also a record of what kind of past the tree has lived, much like a diary.

Scientists called "dendrochronologists" have used these amazing record keepers to gain information of our earth's past weather patterns and events. Droughts, fires, abundant rainfall, competition, crowding, animal or insect damage, and floods are all factors that can leave their marks on trees and are recorded in their annual rings. By studying these annual rings, experts have been able to determine weather

patterns and climate changes of our otherwise undocumented past. Using a specialized tool called an increment borer, a tree's annual rings can be studied while it is still alive.

Last spring, one of the nature center's massive oak trees had to be felled for safety reasons. The large stump can be found along the Naturescape Trail. The annual rings are very visible on the cross section of the stump, making it possible to determine the tree's age. It is also easy to look back at the annual rings and see when we had drought years and rainy years. For example, during the floods of '93 and '95 the annual rings are very wide, due to abundant rainfall. What a great family activity to come and count the annual rings of our felled giant oak tree. In fact, if you count the rings and get within 10 years of the tree's actual age we will give you a bonus stamp in your birthday passport. Come to Runge Nature Center and have a "tremendous" time.

George Syrigos, Naturalist

Volunteer News

Four Runge volunteers were honored for reaching 2,000 hours of service at the Conservation Department Service Awards presentation on July 31. Two thousand hours is the equivalent of one full year's employment!



Congratulations to Doris Linhardt, Kay Kasiske, Sara Rittman, and Judith Lambayan.



10th Birthday Scrapbook

Thank you to all who helped us celebrate our birthday.



Exhibits September and October

Carol Norton has shown art in both the Adult Artists and Professional Artists exhibits in Jefferson City and has been awarded ribbons and honors for her work. She creates her art using a variety of mediums and techniques including oils, water colors, pastels, acrylics, pen and ink, charcoal pencil, mixed media, clay sculpture, and china painting. Stop by the nature center and see Carol's creative exhibit.



Looking Ahead...

Missouri Wildlife Artists' Society November 1 and 2

Stop by the nature center and view paintings, carvings, and sculptures from the Missouri Wildlife Artists' Society. Call the Nature Center for more information.



10th Birthday Passport

Don't forget to turn in your completed passport to claim your birthday prize. Prizes must be claimed by 5:00 PM on Friday, October 31st.

Events for... **SEPTEMBER**

Registration for all programs begins on
Monday, September 1st.
Call 573/526-5544 to make your reservation.

5 Friday

Otterly Amazing!

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Ages: All

Back by popular demand! Join Glenn Chambers and his pair of live river otters for a fascinating program that explains otter life history and the successful restoration project. Reservations required.

6 Saturday

Fiddles and Forests

Time: 7:30-9:00 PM

Ages: All

Mike Fraser will be here with his band Shortleaf, to perform a concert/interpretive program in our auditorium highlighting music from their new CD, *Fiddles and Forests*, produced by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The Shortleaf Band's acoustic music is based on the traditions of Celtic, Appalachian, and Ozark cultures. Reservations required.



11 Thursday

Birding in Missouri State Parks

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Ages: All

George Kastler, Chief Naturalist for Missouri State Parks, will speak on enjoying birds and the excellent wildlife habitat found in Missouri's state parks. Learn where to go and what to see. Program sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

13 Saturday

Hiking for Families - Bring 'em Along!

Time: 10:00 AM - Noon

Ages: All

Remember when you used to go hiking, B.C.? That means, Before Children! Well, you still can. We will hike Runge this morning and share tips about hiking with children of all ages. The trail is not stroller accessible, so come properly equipped. Hopefully, this is just what you need to get outdoors and explore! Reservations required.

16 Tuesday

Portable Planetarium—St. Louis Science Center

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Ages: 13-17

Hale-bopping from the St. Louis Science Center, this indoor program will dazzle you with planets and constellations! The Unisphere, a portable planetarium, will be at Runge to bring the stars indoors. Teens only! Reservations required.

18 Thursday

Wildlifers—Quilt Block

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 AM, 1:00 - 2:30 PM, 3:30 - 5:00 PM, and 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Ages: 50 and older

Do you enjoy wildflower bouquets? Join us this month as we design a nosegay of Missouri wildflowers to add to your sampler. Reservations required.

19 Friday

Trees of Missouri Program & Book Signing

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Ages: All

Don Kurz is a retired Missouri Department of Conservation Natural History Chief and author of the recently published *Trees of Missouri*. He will show slides and talk about some of the interesting features of various trees. He will also be available to sign his new book as well as his other books: *Ozark Wildflowers*, *Scenic Driving the Ozarks Including the Ouachita Mountains*, and *Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri*. The *Trees of Missouri* is available in our gift shop for \$21.50 (hard cover) and \$16.50 (soft cover.) No reservations required.

20 Saturday

The Mighty Missouri River Adventure

Time: 8:30 AM - Noon

Ages: 18 and older

Experience the adventure of floating the Missouri River in a canoe! Explore sand flats and watch for waterfowl as you're carried along by the beautiful "Big Muddy."

We'll begin our journey at the Noren Access by the Jefferson City bridge and paddle 7 miles downriver. Canoes will be provided by Hilkemeyer's Canoe Rental for \$25 each. (Paddles and lifejackets are included with the canoe.) You will be shuttled back to the Noren Access following the trip. Our flotilla will be accompanied by a power boat. You will need to bring sunscreen, hat, water, lunch or snacks. This trip is for experienced canoeists only. You should have successfully floated several smaller rivers before joining us on this trip. Additional details will follow when you make your reservation. Reservations required.

For the Little ones

Why Do Leaves Change Colors?

"Red and yellow, orange and brown,
All the leaves come falling down."

Let's walk in the woods and enjoy the changing of the seasons. Reservations required.

Babes In The Woods Birth through 2 years of age

Friday, September 12 - 10 AM

Sunday, September 14 - 2 PM

Thursday, September 18 - 10 AM

Little Acorns 3 through 6 years of age

Friday, September 5 - 10 AM

Tuesday, September 9 - 10 AM

Tuesday, September 9 - 6 PM

Saturday, September 13 - 10 AM

Wednesday, September 17 - 2 PM

Thursday, September 25 - 10 AM

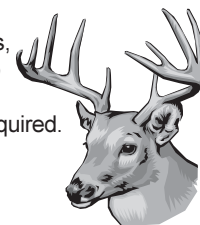
20 Saturday

Deer Hunting for Beginners

Time: 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Ages: All

Ever wished you knew how to hunt deer? We will go over the basics of deer hunting for beginners, from tags and scouting, to clothing and hunting methods. Reservations required.



27 Saturday

The Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Ages: 18 and older

See splendid sights! Learn about our wondrous state! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

Archeological history was made at **Mastodon State Historic Site** in 1979, when a stone spear point was found with the bones of an American mastodon. We'll make our own history this month, as the hiking club hikes this intriguing site for the first time. We'll begin with the museum exhibits, then hike the Wildflower Trail (.5 mile.) After lunch, we'll hike the Spring Branch Trail (.75 mile) and the Limestone Hill Trail (2.25 miles.) Bring your lunch, water, wear hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. **Also bring \$2.50 for your museum entrance fee.** Reservations required.

27 Saturday

Runge Reading Guild

Time: 2:30 - 4:00 PM

Ages: All

"Once there was a tree and she loved a little boy." (*The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein.) We all have our own favorite children's book about nature. This month our Runge Reading Guild is for everyone. Please bring your most loved children's book about our natural world and we will share them with the group for our enjoyment and discussion! Reservations required.

30 Tuesday

Weed Walk and Talk

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Ages: 18 and older

Aaaaah CHOO! Which weed really makes you sneeze? Is goldenrod the culprit or is it rag-weed? When do the "sneeze weeds" bloom? Dr. Stanley Horner, D.O. Allergy and Immunology Specialist, and Jan Syrigos, Naturalist, team up to provide you with Weed I.D. 101 and what to do to minimize your reaction to plant pollen. We'll take a ½ mile hike and then spend some time indoors discussing weed allergies. Don't let a little pollen keep you from enjoying the great outdoors! Reservations required.

Events for... **OCTOBER**

Registration for all programs begins on
Monday, September 1st.
Call 573/526-5544 to make your reservation.

9 Thursday

"Lewis & Clark's Journey Through Missouri"

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 PM *Ages: All*
Lewis and Clark experienced a much different Missouri than what we call home today. James M. Denny, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, will give some fascinating details of their journey through Missouri. His presentation will explore the habitat, flora and fauna, culture, and importance of Missouri in the incredible adventure. Program sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

11 Saturday

Family Hike

Time: 9:00 AM - Noon
Ages: Families with children 8 and older
Meet in the parking lot at Runge or join us at the trailhead at Painted Rock Conservation Area. This hike is intended for families that are willing and able to spend time meandering along the Osage Bluff Scenic Trail, a 1.6 mile trail that winds through the forest and along high river bluffs. Wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes and bring water. Reservations required. Please indicate when you sign up whether you will carpool from Runge or meet us at Painted Rock Conservation Area.

16 Thursday

Wildlifera-Quilt Block

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 AM, 1:00 - 2:30 PM, 3:30 - 5:00 PM, and 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Ages: 50 and older
A spider is not an insect. A spider has silk-spinning structures, called spinnerets. Usually eight eyes of various sizes and shapes grace its face. Join us this month to make a Spider Web block and learn about spiders! Reservations required.

18 Saturday

The Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM *Ages: 18 and older*
When French trappers and traders explored Missouri's rivers in the late 1600's, they named a river in southwest Missouri *Pomme de Terre* ("apple of the earth") for some plants that resembled potatoes that grew on its banks. Come with us to **Pomme de Terre State Park**, where we'll hike two rocky peninsulas of what is now Pomme de Terre lake. We'll begin with the Cedar Bluff Trail (2 miles.) After lunch, we'll find the remnants of a Native American cairn on the Indian Point Trail (3 miles.) Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

18 Saturday

Runge Reading Guild

Time: 2:30 - 4:00 PM *Ages: 18 and older*
When Elephants Weep by Jeffrey M. Masson and Susan McCarthy. Enjoy reading this engaging and authoritative portrait of animals' emotional lives. Then join us for an enjoyable discussion of this book. Jane Goodall says, "This is not only an important book, it's marvelous! Please read it." The book is available at Downtown Book and Toy with a 30% discount for book discussion groups. Reservations required.

READ AHEAD... The Runge Reading Guild for **November** and **December** will be reading and discussing Bernd Heinrich's latest book *Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival*. This book awakens the wonder and mystery by which nature sustains herself through this season.

19 Sunday

Pumpkin Party

Time: Noon - 5 PM *Ages: 13-17*
With Haunted Habitats around the corner, plans are in full swing! This month our group will head to Hartsburg Pumpkin Patch to pick pumpkins for the Runge event. Stay after the pick to carve the pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns. Enter your jack-o-lantern in the carving contest and win a great prize! Snack, carving supplies, and designs provided. Please obtain and sign a permission slip before program date. Reservations required.

24 Friday

Haunted Habitats - Runge Down Under!

Time: 6:00-9:00 PM *Ages: All*
See page 6 for more details.

28 Tuesday

Deer Processing

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 PM *Ages: All*
Going deer hunting? Then join us at the nature center to learn how to skin and process the deer you harvest this year! We'll show you techniques, safety tips, and answer any questions you have about do-it-yourself processing. Reservations required.

For the Little Ones

Spiders

They show up in nursery rhymes, songs, and children's stories. Thousands can be found in forests and fields. Hundreds may be in your backyard and some can share your house with you! Let's look closer at these tiny animals - spiders - that live with us. Reservations required.

Babes In The Woods Birth through 2 years of age

Thursday, October 9 - 10 AM
Tuesday, October 14 - 10 AM
Wednesday, October 29 - 2 PM

Little Acorns 3 through 6 years of age

Tuesday, October 7 - 9 AM
Tuesday, October 14 - 6 PM
Thursday, October 16 - 10 AM
Friday, October 17 - 10 AM
Saturday, October 18 - 10 AM

Creative Coloring Contest

1. Create a picture using this year's theme of **Runge Down Under!** for Haunted Habitats.
2. Titles or slogans for the picture are encouraged.
3. Each entry must be the work of an individual person. No joint entries will be accepted.
4. Each picture must be identified on the back with the following: name, address, age, name of parent, and telephone number.
5. Picture size must be at least 8 1/2" x 11" and no larger than 12" x 18".
6. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in the following categories: 3-5 years, 6-8 years, and 9-11 years. Presentation to winners will be during the **Haunted Habitats** event on October 24, 6 - 9 PM.
7. Entries will not be returned to the participants.
8. Return your finished entry to Runge Conservation Nature Center, Creative Coloring Contest, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180 no later than 5:00 PM on **Friday, October 17th.**



Scouts

If you have a small den or troop, these evening programs are for you! Space is limited.

Forester Program - Webelos Cub Scouts

Thursday, September 11 - 6:30 PM

Earth & Sky Try-It Program - Brownies

Thursday, September 18 - 6:30 PM

Naturalist Program - Webelos Cub Scouts

Thursday, October 9 - 6:30 PM

Watching Wildlife Program - Brownies

Thursday, October 16 - 6:30 PM

Call **September 1st** to make your reservation.

Scout Packs Available

Just a reminder . . . scout leaders can check out packs from the Runge Conservation Nature Center to help their groups work on badges.

The packs available include:

Wolf Cub Elective #13 - *Birds*

Cub Scout Achievement #5 - *Sharing Your World With Wildlife*

Brownie Try-It - *Animals*

Brownie Try-It - *Plants*

"Big Rivers"

Endangered Species Walk/Run

October 4



Do whatever it takes to get to the 6th annual Endangered Species Walk/Run on the KATY trail in north Jefferson City.

Entry forms and additional details are available from Endangered Species Walk/Run, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, or call 573/522-4115 ext 3205.

Hunter Education Course

Sign up now for the Missouri Hunter Education Course! Learn how to hunt safely and responsibly. Ten hours of instruction are required and you must be at least eleven years of age to participate. Students sixteen years of age and under must bring proof of age. Reservations required.

October 2: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

October 3: 6:00 - 10:00 PM

October 4: 8:00 AM - Noon

Conservation

Kids' Club



Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to one of these meetings and we'll sign you up.

Portable Planetarium-St. Louis Science Center

Tuesday, September 16

*Please note special times for the planetarium presentation. Please arrive promptly.

6:00 - 7:00 PM Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) have their meeting.

6:30 - 7:30 PM Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) have their meeting.

This star-studded program travels to us from the St. Louis Science Center! You will be dazzled by stars and constellations while you're indoors. The wonders of the night sky are introduced in the Unisphere, a portable planetarium. Join us for an evening of astronomy adventure.

Night Adventure Hike

Tuesday, October 21

7:00 - 8:00 PM Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) join for this adventure.

Explore the out-of-doors at night without the aid of a flashlight. Journey down one of our trails in search of signs and sounds of nocturnal wildlife. Test your own bravery during a solo hike. Even our snack will have a night time flavor!

HEY PARENTS!

While big brother/sister attends **Conservation Kids' Club**, your pre-schooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time!

Why Do Leaves Change Colors?

Tuesday, September 16

6:00 - 7:00 PM (Parents with children 3-6 years)

*"Red and yellow, orange and brown,
All the leaves come falling down."*

Let's walk in the woods and enjoy the changing of the seasons. Reservations required.



Spiders

Tuesday, October 21

6:00 - 7:00 PM (Parents with children 3-6 years)

They show up in nursery rhymes, songs, and children's stories. Thousands can be found in forests and fields. Hundreds may be in your backyard and some can share your house with you! Let's look closer at these tiny animals - spiders - that live with us.

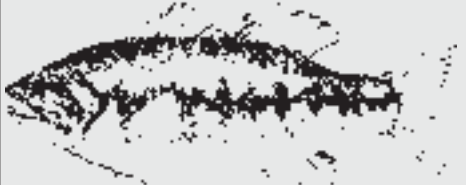
Hunted Habitats

RUNGE

October 24
6-9 pm

DOWN UNDER

► Under Water



► Under Logs



► Under Ground



Along the trail and

through the exhibits.

► Under Shells



► Under Rocks



► Under Foot



- Creative Coloring Contest
- Costume Corner
- Hands-on Activities
- Refreshments
- and More

No reservations required.
Event is free and
open to the public.
Rain date is October 25.

RUNGE CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the Nature Center entrance on the left. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Noon to 5:00 PM on Sundays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. No admission fee. PHONE: 573/526-5544 FAX: 573/526-4496 <<http://www.mdc.state.mo.us/areas/cnc/runge>>